

NEGRO MUST MAKE GOOD OR GIVE PLACE

So Says President Johnson, of N. & W., Speaking of Southern Labor Problems.

DISCUSSES RATE REGULATION

Railroads Are as Honest as Other Business Enterprises, and Are Entitled to Square Deal.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
PETERSBURG, VA., May 16.—The Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and a large audience of business men and other citizens heard President L. E. Johnson, of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, deliver an address at A. P. Hill Camp Hall to-night on the proposed establishment of an immigration station at Norfolk, and on commercial and industrial conditions in general, especially the question of railroad rate regulation. Mr. Johnson was introduced by Augustus Wright, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who first announced that the vice-president, Charles Hall Davis, would make a brief speech on the possibilities of commercial and industrial development in Petersburg. Mr. Davis spoke of the great commercial and financial advance made by the city within the last ten years, and then set forth in clear and vigorous language the immense possibilities of its future.

Mr. Johnson received a warm welcome and was accorded the closest attention.

What Mr. Johnson Said.

President Johnson spoke in part as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Chamber of Commerce:

"I have accepted with no little pleasure the cordial invitation of your committee to be present with you this evening. In the correspondence which has taken place between your committee and myself in regard to the character of the meeting to be held, as well as the subjects of my address, I was given free latitude as to the subject and character of the remarks which I should make. I know that this meeting is called in the interest of the upbuilding of the city of Petersburg, and if there is anything that I can say or do at any time which will help to improve or give a word of encouragement to any community in Virginia, it is my purpose, at any reasonable sacrifice, to be present. For more than ten years now my life has been spent on Virginia soil, and the best work that I am capable of has been devoted to the upbuilding of the commercial and industrial interests of this State, and I feel that I have some right, as it is my pleasure, to counsel with the people of Virginia on any matters looking to the further advancement and progress of its people."

Discussing immigration and the character of immigrants desired, Mr. Johnson said:

"We want neither anarchists nor socialists, for already that character of immigration has had some influence in other sections of this country in lowering the American standards of law and order, as well as its ideas of home life. We wish neither the lazy, shiftless nor improvident, for we have fair samples in our own midst of this class of labor, which cannot be depended upon to build up communities, and are found wanting when responsibilities arise. We must insist upon encouraging only that class of immigrants who are conscious of their want of opportunity, and are imbued with an earnest desire to better their condition; who are prepared to come to this country with a firm determination to become American citizens, and not a foreign colony in America; who are willing to be amenable to our laws and to be governed by our social conditions. We cannot expect to obtain this class of

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For information in regard to the city, especially about its commercial and manufacturing possibilities, apply to

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Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 9th and Main Sts.

foreigners unless full opportunity is afforded them to improve their condition, not only by the ability to earn better wages, but by reason of opportunities given for the education of their children, as well as their social and religious evolution.

Warning to Negro.

"I have naught to say against that class of labor upon which this State and other States of the South have been dependent for so many years, but the handwriting is on the wall, and, in the forcible language of the day, it is inevitable that, unless the negro makes



PRESIDENT L. E. JOHNSON.

good, the day of his employment as the chief factor in the labor question of this section is drawing to a close. From my own observation it does not appear to me that it is the desire of the white people of Virginia that the negro shall be excluded from the opportunity of earning an honest and honorable living in those vocations of life to which his character, training and habits are best suited, or in any calling in which his efficiency is made plain, but it is a fact that our people are no longer satisfied with inefficient and unfaithful laborers, and unless the race, who have for so many years had the monopoly of the labor situation in the South, shall prove more satisfactory and reliable than has been the condition during the past years, it must be realized that modern progress demands that the work shall be done by the negro, if he will do it—by others if he will not."

Putting Bands About Them.

After telling of the wishes of railroads to build up the business of the country through which they run, President Johnson frankly expressed himself upon railroad legislation now so frequent. He said in part:

"And this brings me to the consideration of some of the bands which are now being placed about the bodies of the transportation companies of this country, and to submit to your reasonable consideration whether such restrictions and impositions are fair and just, other upon the ground of inherent right or justified even upon considerations of retaliation."

"In this connection let me say, with the utmost frankness, that I do not appear before you this evening as an apologist for the railroad companies of this country, nor their officers or employees. I do not believe that they need make any apology for themselves before this or any other American audience. The railway companies, as companies, on the whole, are managed just as fairly, honestly and intelligently as any other companies or class of companies in these United States."

"The officers and employees, as a class, are honest, hard-working, capable and courageous; just such men as you

would expect to come out from the body of the American people; neither better nor worse than their fellow-men, born of the same mothers, trained by the same fathers; but in many respects better trained by experience than the majority of those who undertake to pose as their equals; as individuals with faults, it may be, just as each one of you, yet as a whole, they have been and are serving well their day and generation; and, in my judgment, just as well, just as faithfully and just as honestly as the members of any other trade, calling or profession. And yet it is a fashion of the times to take advantage of any delinquency on the part of a single railroad or railroad employee in this country, and use it as a text for denouncing railroads in general, as well as their officers and employees in the public press, on the hustings, in the legislative hall or wherever there is an audience willing to listen, and to the recital of the crime of another, to ask you: Is this just? "Let him that is without sin cast the first stone."

Concluding, Mr. Johnson discussed the importance of agriculture, as follows:

"The wealth of the United States is based upon its agricultural products. You can hear it said, wherever the question of the prosperity of our country is being discussed, that so long as we do not have a crop failure, not only the present prosperous condition will continue, but will grow still greater. We are, as a nation, a large factor in the producers of the food products of the world, and I cannot comprehend why there should be with-in the borders of our State such a large area of tillable land untitled as there actually exists to-day; and may I ask your indulgence to invite your attention to an article published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch of May 15th, headed, 'Model Farm and School as Well.'"

"This article was not incited by me; in fact, I have only read it this morning, but I incite every word that is

said. The writer has stated the facts as they exist in connection with the building up of the farm in question, purely as an example of what can be done with the soil of Eastern Virginia; therefore, I say to you that any city located as you are that will take the necessary measures to make your city attractive, and will lend its aid in support of its farming communities, is bound to grow and bound to attract attention."

"Finally, I realize that you require prompt transportation of your goods, fair and reasonable rates, the hearty co-operation of the managements of the railroads in these respects, and we invite you to treat us as neighbors; do not jump at conclusions that you have been treated unfairly until you give the managements of the railway companies that serve you an opportunity to investigate the alleged or actual unfair treatment, and you will find co-operation and an effort made by the railway officials to remedy any real irregularities that exist as promptly as conditions will permit."

After his address a rising vote of thanks was tendered him on motion of Charles T. Lassiter. Mr. Johnson afterwards met most of the members of the audience at a reception at the Petersburg Club.

Among the representatives of the chambers of commerce and like organization in other cities present at to-night's meeting were Captain John Landstreet and John C. Easley, of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce; Presidents Halton, of the Charlottesville Chamber, and Lear, of Covington, Captain Boutwell and Mr. Wigg, of the Norfolk Board of Trade, and Messrs. S. A. McNeal and H. A. Hertz, of the Two Hundred Thousand League, of Norfolk.

Mr. Barbour Now Partner.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
FAIRFAX COUNTRYHOUSE, VA., May 16.—Hon. John S. Barbour, of Culpeper, Va., has become connected with the law firm of Messrs. Moore & Keith, composed of Hon. R. Walton Moore and Thomas R. Keith, the name of the new firm being Moore, Barbour & Keith.

BISHOP DEDICATES DINWIDDIE CHURCH

Rev. Father O'Farrell Celebrates Mass—Father Hornung Preaches.

YOUNG PUGH PLEADS GUILTY

Says He Stole Max Figman's Purse and Pin—Negro Found Guilty for Theft.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
PETERSBURG, VA., May 16.—The new Catholic chapel, known as the Church of Holy Mary, recently erected near the Poplar Grove National Cemetery, in Dinwiddie county, was dedicated this morning by Bishop Van de Weyer, of Richmond. Rev. Father O'Farrell, rector of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, in this city, celebrated mass, and Rev. Father Hornung, of Baltimore, preached the sermon. Rev. Father Kenick, rector of the parish, including Dinwiddie and Prince George counties, assisted in the ceremonies, with several other priests. The new chapel will be used by the Bohemian Catholics of Dinwiddie.

General Statue Unveiling.
General Smith Bolling, of this city, commander of the Virginia Division, United Confederate Veterans, and his staff have been invited to attend the unveiling of the equestrian statue of

General John B. Gordon, in Atlanta, Ga., on May 25th. General Bolling will probably be unable to accept the invitation because of the nearness of the Confederate Reunion in Richmond, of which he is to take a prominent part.

Pugh Pleads Guilty.

Harry Pugh, a young white man formerly employed as a valet by Max Figman, the actor, pleaded guilty in the Hustings Court to-day to the charge of stealing a pocketbook from Mr. Figman, containing \$130 in cash and a coral pin valued at \$135. The court suspended sentence. Pugh skipped with the pocketbook on the night of April 6th, when Mr. Figman appeared here in "The Man on the Box." He was arrested in Lynchburg. The pin and a small amount of money were recovered. He says that he is only sixteen years old and ran away from his home at Asheville, N. C., to accept a position with the actor.

Jury Finds Boy Guilty.

James Mason (colored) was tried on the charge of larceny of a pocketbook containing \$15 from the person of W. B. Brownley, of Sussex county. The robbery occurred yesterday, when Mason drove out to Blandford with Mr. Brownley in a buggy. After Mason left Brownley the latter missed his pocketbook, and returned to the city to report the loss to Chief of Police England. When arrested by Officer George the negro denied the charge, but the pocketbook was found on him at the police station. In court Mason claimed that Mr. Brownley gave him the money to keep until to-day, when he would return to Petersburg from a trip down into Prince George county. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of petit larceny, and fixed the prisoner's punishment at thirty days in jail.

Many Spring Chickens Burn.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
WARRENTON, VA., May 16.—The Meitz Poultry Farm, owned and operated by Jeffries & Blythe, was totally destroyed by fire Tuesday night. About one hundred chickens were lost, and all the buildings were burned to the ground. The cause is unknown, but it is supposed that the blaze was started by matches and rats.

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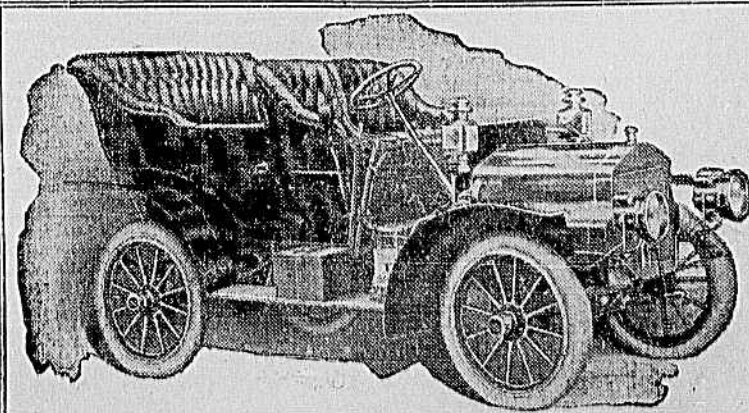
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